

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A block polymer comprising a polyalkenyl ether main chain comprising:

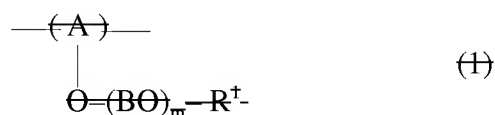
a first block segment having hydrophobicity;

a second block segment having an upper limit hydration temperature exceeding 70°C;

and

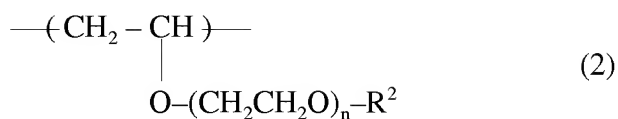
a third block segment having an ionic property,

wherein the second block segment is represented by the following general formula (1):



~~wherein A represents an unsubstituted or substituted polyvinyl group; B represents an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched alkylene group with 1 to 15 carbon atoms; m represents an integer from 2 to 50; B is optionally different; and R[†] represents a hydrogen atom, =CH₃ or -C₂H₅, and~~

~~wherein the block segment represented by general formula (1) is represented by the following general formula (2):~~



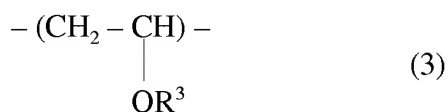
wherein n represents an integer from 2 to 50; and R² represents a hydrogen atom, -CH₃ or -C₂H₅.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the third block segment is a block segment showing anionic property.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment is represented by general formula (3):



wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph-Ph, Ph-Pyr, -(CH(R⁴)-CHR⁵)-O)_p-R⁶ and -(CH₂)_k-(O)_l-R⁶ in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; p represents an integer from 1 to 18; k represents an integer from 1 to 36; l represents 0 or 1; R⁴ and R⁵ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or CH₃; R⁶ represents

a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph-Ph, Ph-Pyr, -CHO, -CO-CH=CH₂, -CO-C(CH₃)=CH₂ or -CH₂COOR⁷ in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, F, Cl or Br, and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; and R⁷ represents an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment comprises a single repeating unit structure.

7. (Original) A polymer-containing composition comprising the block polymer according to claim 1, a solvent or a dispersing medium, and a functional substance.

8. (Original) A polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is enclosed in the block polymer.

9. (Previously Presented) An ink composition comprising the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is a colorant.

10. (Original) A liquid application method comprising the steps of:
preparing the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7; and
applying the polymer-containing composition to a medium.

11 - 12. (Cancelled)